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Chair: Mr. Momen ..... (Bangladesh)

Contents

General debate (*continued*)

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Govrin** (Israel) said that development was a pressing global issue requiring significant resources from the entire international community. Israel's international cooperation programme, MASHAV, had been working for five decades to advance social, economic and environmental sustainable development, with a focus on building human and institutional capacity. It concentrated on areas where Israel had a competitive advantage, such as agriculture and rural development, water and desertification, micro-enterprise, public health, empowerment of women, and education. Israel welcomed the emphasis recently given by the General Assembly to issues of desertification, land degradation and drought for one third of the world's population lived in arid lands. It had for decades worked to perfect desertification solutions, sharing them with the developing world. The effects of spreading land degradation were being exacerbated by climate change. Israel was contributing its expertise in overcoming the challenges of arid lands through its involvement in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

2. Israel had refocused its programmes on the severe challenges facing Africa; it was providing long-term assistance to refugees in Kenya and Ethiopia, and would continue supporting efforts to end famine in the Horn of Africa. It had established a task force to prepare its contribution to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and would soon host a meeting to raise awareness of the central role of green agriculture in stimulating economic growth and combating poverty, also providing a platform for the sharing of expertise and best practices, focusing on agricultural development under conditions of limited natural resources and climate instability.

3. Israel planned to submit to the Committee the biannual resolution on agricultural technology for development, which addressed a wide range of priority issues, including empowerment of rural women, climate change, food security and global economic challenges. He called on all Member States to co-sponsor the resolution and adopt it by consensus.

4. **Mrs. Aitimova** (Kazakhstan) said that the growing pace of globalization dictated the necessity of changing the economic paradigm of programmes and activities of the United Nations and designing remedies to mitigate the causes of the economic crisis. A recalibrated Economic and Social Council could play a crucial substantive coordinating role. Deficiencies in the global economic system had led to economic crisis and no real measures had been taken to rectify them. Delay could lead to further crises and to regional and international instability. Urgent action was needed to create an effective mechanism for global economic management, including a serious reform of the Bretton Woods institutions, with clear powers and lines of accountability, an effective and sufficient global reserve currency, and stricter control over speculative capital. In his statement to the General Assembly, the President of Kazakhstan had proposed the development of a global regulation pact, in keeping with the recommendations of the Secretary-General in his report on globalization and interdependence (A/66/223). She requested that that proposal be considered by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs together with those of other delegations.

5. New trade reforms were needed and she called on Member States to complete the Doha round of negotiations in order to achieve better cooperation in multilateral, regional and bilateral arrangements, especially for landlocked countries. Trade and cargo transportation were of high priority to such countries.

6. Kazakhstan had achieved substantial levels of development thanks to a well-chosen visionary strategy. The recent creation of the customs union linking Kazakhstan, Belarus and the Russian Federation had streamlined customs procedures and trade between Kazakhstan and its partners had reached $16.5 billion. A common economic space was under consideration with the goal of generating more goods and services. Nevertheless, the transition from regional cooperation to the global level required harmonization of national trade and tariff policies. Kazakhstan favoured the development of South-South cooperation, not as a substitute for, but as a complement to North-South cooperation. Eliminating inequalities between developed and developing countries was a moral and political imperative, in order to enable developing countries to take advantage of the economic benefits of globalization so crucial to achieving the Millennium Development

Goals (MDGs). As the latter would most likely not be achieved by 2015, plans would have to be adjusted.

7. The threat of climate change was also derailing realization of the MDGs and must be addressed. Climate change was having an increasingly acute impact in the Central Asian region. Kazakhstan was striving to protect the environment through a sustainable development strategy to be completed by 2020. It was committed to the Green Bridge project, a promising initiative supported by the countries participating in the Seventh Pan-European Ministerial Conference, held in Astana. That initiative should be on the agenda of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012 as a further development of the Seoul Initiative on Green Growth so as to strengthen partnership between Europe, Asia and the Pacific. Kazakhstan also planned to add to the Rio agenda a proposal concerning a Global Energy-Ecological Strategy that would benefit all countries.

8. **Mr. Le Hoai Trung** (Viet Nam) said that, while it was encouraged that implementation of international development targets was proceeding on track, his delegation was deeply concerned at the slow pace of growth and the many challenges that lay ahead.

9. The international community should respond collectively to the global financial and economic crisis, while cooperating closely to address challenges at all levels of the international system. A range of cooperation modalities should be explored, with the United Nations playing a central role and with participation by all stakeholders, with a view to attaining development objectives. Developed partners should do more to honour their commitments to increasing official development assistance (ODA), mobilizing finance for development, and reserving special assistance for least developed countries (LDCs) and African countries. Developing countries should use diverse cooperation modalities and development finance more effectively.

10. Reform of the international financial and monetary architecture needed speeding up, with a more representative and accountable governance, in order, inter alia, to enhance the participation of developing countries. Trade was another priority, and removing distortions and protectionist policies was vital. With stronger political will, the Doha Round could be concluded.

11. Integrating and balancing the three pillars of sustainable development — economic, social and environmental — was an important task for the whole international community. Energy, water, food security, sustainable agriculture, biodiversity, urbanization, oceans, institutions and governance were essential cross-cutting issues for development strategies and long-term investment. Moreover, environmental protection, particularly climate change mitigation and adaptation were at the forefront of the development agenda, requiring comprehensive responses from every nation. Strengthening response capacity and reducing vulnerability of developing countries was a priority. The climate change adaptation fund should be increased to meet requests for assistance from developing countries, particularly those facing the threat of sea level rise.

12. Viet Nam had adopted a range of economic policies to stimulate economic recovery and promote sustainable development. While, thanks to support from the international community, it had attained most of the Millennium Development Goals ahead of schedule, it still faced complex challenges and would need continued international support.

13. **Mr. Benmehidi** (Algeria) said that prospects for development had rarely been as grim. The economic crisis that had prevailed since 2008 was predicted to lead to a new recession. International efforts to curb the effects of the crisis had not only failed but had adversely affected developing countries. Moreover, budgetary constraints had led industrialized countries to reduce official development assistance.

14. Even as globalization fostered interdependence between North and South, waning multilateralism, coupled with a failure to control major financial entities, was generating a persistent risk for the world economy. The chief economist of the International Monetary Fund had recently referred to the situation as "a dangerous new phase". The international community should act without delay to strengthen the United Nations ability to intervene more decisively in global economic governance, in coordination with the international financial institutions. The countries of the South must take full responsibility for their own development, while the United Nations should remain the central forum for discussion of economic, financial, social and environmental issues.

15. The situation called for new sources of development funding that were not conducive to indebtedness and that merely supplemented ODA, for the latter remained crucial. Developed countries must not use the financial crisis as a pretext for failing to honour their commitments.

16. Multilateral trade must favour development and must take into account the specificities of different countries. For example, the recent spike in food prices had significantly affected net importers of food. Middle-income countries while showing strong population and economic growth also had pockets of poverty. Their difficulties were being compounded by the world economic crisis and the international community should take those difficulties into account.

17. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (2012 Rio Conference) would provide an opportunity to reaffirm commitments to the environmental agenda and to sustainable development, and to make substantive progress on the institutional framework for sustainable development and on the green economy. The recent high-level meeting on the theme "Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication" had served to make the issue an international priority. Greater reliance on science was needed to help build understanding of the issues, with a view to ensuring "zero growth in degradation" through a global scientific authority modelled on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

18. In view of the slow progress in climate change negotiations, it was vital to fulfil the commitments on financing and technology transfer assumed in Copenhagen and Cancún and to forge new commitments based on the principle of shared but differentiated responsibilities.

19. Algeria welcomed the success of the Tenth Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and would work with all partners to ensure implementation of the 10-year strategy to safeguard biodiversity, the Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization and the establishment of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

20. **Mr. Jong Choi Mun** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that sustainable development was inconceivable without a peaceful environment. Only when peace and stability were assured could greater human, financial and technological resources be mobilized for sustainable development. Dialogue and negotiation should be encouraged in addressing disputes, encouraging collaboration and exchanges among Member States on the basis of respecting each other's economic and social system. However, the international community must be careful not to adopt one universal standard or method for achieving sustainable development.

21. International collaborations and exchanges should be directed towards the establishment of just and equitable economic relations for the sustainable development of all. Developed countries should establish a genuine partnership for development, refrain from pursuing unilateral interests and develop economic cooperation on the basis of the principles of mutual benefits and equality.

22. The United Nations should play a central role in addressing current issues, including the global economic and financial crisis, and climate change, as well as reforming the current international financial system in conformity with the contemporary world. Currently, attention should be focused on ensuring that the 2012 Rio Conference produced practical results. His delegation hoped that the Committee would contribute thereto throughout the preparatory process.

23. For its part, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea would continue to expand economic cooperation with all countries endeavouring to build a new, peaceful and just world on the basis of independence, equality and mutual benefit.

24. **Mr. Kyaw Tin** (Myanmar) said that more than three years after the last global financial crisis, its grave impacts lingered on. Since most developing countries were still grappling with intractable problems an effective multilateral response was essential. Measures to address the world economy's problems must include reforms of the global financial system to make it more representative and responsive.

25. The challenges of development were compounded by that of climate change. Urgent action was needed on enhanced provision of financial resources and technological cooperation for mitigation and adaptation efforts. His delegation supported the approach of

common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and looked forward to the upcoming meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Durban. His delegation also supported the call for a more systemic and integrated approach to sustainable development and saw the 2012 Rio Conference as a unique opportunity to move forward.

26. Despite an uneven recovery, some countries had made impressive gains in combating poverty. According to the World Bank, the overall poverty rate was expected to fall below 15 per cent by 2015, although most LDCs still lagged behind in efforts to improve living standards. While LDCs had primary responsibility for their own development, they could not achieve their goals without a favourable external environment and strong international support. Denial of development assistance or of a UNDP country programme to a least-developed country was not only immoral but also showed disregard for the right to development.

27. Myanmar's new Government had taken a series of bold measures aimed at promoting sustainable development. It had introduced economic policies that would lead to sustained, inclusive and equitable growth, focusing on economic management and poverty alleviation. One of its first steps had been the adoption of the National Rural Development and Poverty Reduction Plan with the aim of improving the livelihoods of people living in rural areas. Myanmar had had some success in advancing towards the Millennium Development Goals, having — according to a recent United Nations Development Programme report — reduced the poverty rate from 32 per cent to 26 per cent, and seen a major increase in net enrolment in primary education. However, lack of development assistance, as well as sanctions, had had a negative impact. Without the obstacle of sanctions and with increased external assistance, including the support of regional development institutions, Myanmar's development efforts would achieve greater progress.

28. Finally, he said that developed and developing countries needed to come together in a renewed global partnership to address the problems they faced and to share the benefits of globalization. The opportunity presented by the 2012 Rio Conference to embark on a new path of sustainable development for all should not be wasted.

29. **Mr. Nkombela** (South Africa) said that responding to the multiple global crises required constructive engagement and negotiations in good faith. The Committee should play a vital role in delivering a positive outcome for the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held in Durban. His delegation was impressed with the progress being made in preparations for the 2012 Rio Conference, which should be another milestone in the pursuit of sustainable development goals for a just and prosperous world.

30. Global issues such as the current global financial architecture, financial supervision and regulation, the conclusion of the Doha Round, and environmental issues, had a major impact, especially on the least developed countries and on Africa.

31. The international community must strengthen its commitment to development financing. All too often, generous pledges were made but not implemented. The fulfilment of ODA pledges, especially by developed countries, was vital. All parties were connected as part of the global community and, collectively, they could change the world.

32. **Mr. Loulichki** (Morocco), said that the world economy faced uncertain prospects following the global economic and financial crisis of 2008. Signs of recovery in 2010 had been followed by a slackening of performance, combined with debt crises in certain countries, a resurgence of protectionist impulses and volatile food and energy prices. In an interconnected world economy, a favourable external context was a prerequisite for developing countries, notably the African countries and least developed countries, to achieve sustained and inclusive growth as a basis for development. The United Nations should remain central to the system of international cooperation and retain its ability to mobilize the needed support for development. Indeed, its role should be strengthened. The legitimacy and impact of decisions taken on global economic governance and their adoption by Member States required the involvement and partnership of developing countries in all decision-making processes. One year after the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, the slow pace and scale of progress towards achieving the Goals was a source of concern, particularly given that growth in resources for ODA had slowed down.

33. The economic crisis was a short-term problem and should not be used to justify withholding ODA or non-compliance with the target of 0.7 per cent. However, innovative sources of development financing — which were, and must remain, supplementary to traditional sources — should be encouraged. Attainment of the MDGs could be further delayed by food-price volatility. The most pressing problem was no doubt the humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa, where over 12 million people were beset by famine. Prompt international action was also needed to tackle structural food insecurity problems. The world summit on food security of 2009 and the initiative of the G20 were commendable.

34. Climate change was unquestionably having a negative impact on the planet. For the most vulnerable countries, especially small island States, not only their development prospects but their very survival was at stake. The upcoming Durban conference should lead to fair, effective and binding global arrangements equal to the challenges of climate change.

35. In the run-up to the 2012 Rio Conference appropriate priority must be given to the green economy and to poverty eradication. Consensus on the green economy was essential if the conference was to deliver results, but it was equally necessary that modalities for its implementation include transfer of technology and granting of resources under the best conditions.

36. Development assistance must be commensurate with the problems facing African countries. The latter's capacity to finance development had been drastically curtailed by the crises of 2007 and 2008, and pledges of support had not been fully honoured. A mechanism to monitor and facilitate fulfilment of commitments was needed. Moreover, international efforts for the LDCs should include ODA, which remained essential, development of infrastructure, improved access to markets, assistance for trade, debt relief and transfer of technology.

37. Trade negotiations under the Doha Round had been deadlocked for over five years. Concluding those negotiations would require Member States to seek consensus and place development at the heart of the world trade system. Cooperation frameworks — regional, interregional and subregional — had become decisive factors defining global governance, especially in economic matters, also contributing to regional stability. Regional integration in the South could enable countries to respond more effectively to development challenges by sharing their experience and best practices.

38. **Mr. Tachie-Manson** (Ghana) noting that economic growth was expected to remain slow, said that, in order to stimulate economic growth, it would be necessary to quickly conclude the Doha trade negotiations so as to provide the framework for a fair trading system that took into account the concerns of the poor. Protectionism and other barriers raised by some major economies as a result of the crises must be reconsidered. It was also urgent to reform the global economic and financial architecture. While the Bretton Woods institutions had undertaken minimal reforms, he urged them to be more democratic and to strengthen their cooperation with the United Nations. Moreover, while recognizing that developed economies faced enormous difficulties as a result of the crises, that should not prevent them from honouring their international commitments, particularly ODA to Africa.

39. Climate change was undoubtedly the defining development challenge of the twenty-first century, for it was causing floods, desertification and drought, reducing agricultural production and prompting many to migrate. At the same time it presented opportunities for, by investing in technical assistance, infrastructure and technology, it should be possible to harness water resources, expand access to modern energy and step up the fight against diseases.

40. It was his delegation's expectation that critical political questions that had not been addressed at the Cancún conference would be addressed in Durban. Strong commitment, leadership and flexibility were needed to ensure a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol. Moreover, pledged commitments should be monitored and verified and be in accordance with the requirements of science.

41. The challenges of desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) were most acute in Africa where they impeded economic growth. For example, an estimated 60 per cent of Ghana was covered by drylands and characterized by low and erratic rainfall, depletion of soil fertility and declining food production. His delegation therefore called for enhanced implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and it also called upon the international community to establish an intergovernmental scientific panel on soil that would

provide scientific advice to Governments. Mainstreaming sustainable land management techniques was a worthwhile endeavour that justified increased investments. The Global Environmental Facility should balance its priorities and allocation of resources to all three Rio conventions. Finally, he said that it was Ghana's expectation that the 2012 Rio Conference would integrate such issues as sustainable land use, agriculture, forestry and food security as the main components of the green economy, for the sake of saving the lives of over one billion poor people.

42. **Mr. Srivali** (Thailand) noting that the world economy remained fragile following the economic and financial crisis, said that Thailand had seen its share of turbulence and attached great importance to building resilience against external shocks.

43. Globalization should be development-centred and equitable and the role of the United Nations in global economic governance should be strengthened so that its expertise in development could be put to full use. Thailand supported greater coordination between the United Nations and the G-20 and it favoured an early conclusion of the Doha Round; it looked forward to the successful outcome of UNCTAD XIII.

44. Developing countries' representation in international financial institutions should be increased as part of a larger reform process that could explore options for reforming monetary systems and surveillance in order to increase transparency and stability. A favourable economic environment was vital at the regional level. Regional initiatives should be supported and strengthened, in turn contributing to global financial stability.

45. Having achieved most of the MDGs ahead of schedule, Thailand believed it was equally important to ensure the sustainability of development and it was striving for sustainable development that was inclusive and equitable. He expressed the hope that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development would succeed in setting a new, people-centred global paradigm of sustainable development truly reflecting its three pillars: economic growth, social development and environmental protection.

46. Climate change was a priority of Thailand's latest national economic and social development plan which was designed to turn the country into a low-carbon society and a green economy. Thailand supported the Green Climate Fund and the establishment of an Adaptation Committee and a Technology Executive Committee to work with developing countries, and, seeking to strengthen South-South cooperation, it also supported building bridges between the developed and developing worlds through trilateral cooperation.

47. **Mr. Kapambwe** (Zambia) said that the sustainable development agenda could not be more important for the United Nations given the persistent challenges faced by the world economy. Sustainable development would continue to elude humanity unless the international community acted decisively on many neglected issues.

48. Zambia had made significant progress in economic development thanks to relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) debt initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative. In the wake of the global financial crisis, the challenge that Zambia faced was to ensure that public debt remained sustainable and that the private-sector debt level did not place the financial system at risk. The Committee should bear in mind that the debt sustainability framework used to analyse the debt positions of low- and middle-income countries also focused on debt dynamics, particularly the interaction between public and private debt.

49. Trade was vital to sustainable development. Zambia, like many of its contemporaries, faced supply-side constraints that hindered its capacity to effectively use preferential trade arrangements. Major challenges remained regarding the timelines, adequacy and appropriateness of the preferential trade initiatives. Those challenges should be faced regionally and internationally in a coherent and practical manner. The Doha Round was an important platform to create reasonable progress towards sustainability and equity in global trade, and the international community should ensure that the negotiations were successfully concluded and that development issues were fully incorporated in the outcome. Developed country partners should demonstrate their commitment through early conclusion of measures on duty free — quota free market access with flexible rules of origin, taking steps forward on cotton and on the waiver for services.

50. Zambia noted with appreciation that the Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries had committed to strengthening support for LDCs by creating an environment favourable to sustainable development, increasing productive capacities, diversifying economies and building necessary infrastructure.

51. Member States should be fully engaged in the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development for it was of the utmost importance to have an inclusive and transparent process and to secure financial resources to ensure full participation by developing countries at all stages. Zambia welcomed United Nations leadership on climate change and desertification and hoped to see the convention on desertification raised to the level of the other two Rio conventions, that on climate change and that on biodiversity, by the time of the Conference.

52. Regarding the coming conference of the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, he reiterated the international community's critical role in providing adequate, predictable, new and additional financial resources, as well as ensuring the transfer of technology and capacity-building as a prerequisite for success. He also expressed concern that developed countries had given no indication that they would adopt a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol. Their current mitigation pledges could not reduce global greenhouse gas emissions to a level sufficient to hold temperature increases within the scientifically prescribed range. He therefore called upon developed countries to raise their ambitions prior to the conference.

53. **Mr. Schuldt** (Ecuador) said that, given the widespread instability in the world — due to the continuing after-effects of the crisis of 2008 — countries would find it very difficult to meet the MDGs by 2015 unless the developed countries showed real political will to contribute timely and predictable financing free of conditionalities. Such a global alliance for development should look beyond 2015 and respond to the changing challenges of an increasingly globalized world. It fell to the General Assembly, by virtue of its legitimacy and representativity, to develop partnerships and commitments on global governance, including issues on which consensus had not yet been reached.

54. For Ecuador, the gravity of the crisis had underscored the need to strengthen the role of the United Nations in global economic governance, with a view to reforming the international financial system and democratizing international relations. However, aside from a few changes in the management of the Bretton Woods institutions and a paradoxical refinancing of the institutions that had brought about the crisis, nothing had changed, and the international community continued to wait for financial and monetary regulation.

55. His delegation therefore appealed to the Committee members to rise to adopt creative resolutions that would enable nations to take the necessary steps to provide the international community with a new financial architecture, an independent mechanism for restructuring and resolving sovereign debt, a solution to the deadlocked Doha Round, a guarantee of fulfilment of the ODA target of 0.7 per cent of GDP, and the necessary space for developing countries to adopt public policies consonant with their national priorities and strategies.

56. Regionally and subregionally, proposals had already emerged for multilateral responses that could be implemented to prevent recurrence of crises or to mitigate the effects of the current crises, inter alia the creation of a bank of the South or of joint Latin American reserve fund. Those complementary measures, like innovative financing mechanisms, should not serve as a pretext for non-fulfilment of obligations assumed or for not seeking new global measures to strengthen development financing.

57. Coming events that would define the Committee's work would be the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (2012 Rio Conference). Ecuador favoured a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol in order to stabilize the devastating effects of global warming.

58. Stressing the need to move from words to deeds where climate change wa concerned, he stated that Ecuador had presented the Yasuni-ITT initiative, whereby it would leave underground some 856 million barrels of oil in the Yasuni National Park — thus avoiding the discharge into the atmosphere of 407 million metric tons of carbon dioxide — in exchange for economic compensation estimated at 50 per cent of the value of the profits it would otherwise have received.

59. Ecuador hoped that the 2012 Rio Conference would also afford opportunities to discuss such issues as food security and the effect of the financial crisis on sustainable development. In that connection, he said that developing countries were faced with the challenge of generating innovations — based on access to knowledge and an ecosystemic approach — that were conducive to the generation and redistribution of wealth in harmony with nature. It was important to

recall that nature had physical limits that did not permit unlimited economic growth. The green economy was part of a broader debate on the challenges of sustainable development and should be viewed in relation to society and nature, in order to arrive at better systems of economic and extra-economic evaluation of global public goods.

60. His delegation associated itself with those delegations that had referred to the importance of migration and its clear link to development and stressed the need for South-South cooperation as a key mechanism of development, albeit one complementary to North-South cooperation.

61. **Mr. Tanin** (Afghanistan), said that pressing global challenges could only be eliminated through effective cooperation by all stakeholders and stressed that continued international support for developing countries was vital, particularly in the form of technical and financial assistance.

62. Afghanistan had taken enormous strides towards regaining its rightful place in the community of nations since the overthrow of the Taliban and was building a more prosperous economy and a healthier society. However, insecurity and the terror threat were a major impediment to its continued development. He urged the Committee to consider security issues and their impact on the development of post-conflict countries such as his own, adding that the United Nations could play a crucial role in helping least developed countries, especially those emerging from conflict.

63. Agricultural development and food security were issues of great importance to Afghanistan, and climate change affected all nations. Addressing it, therefore, called for general cooperation. Finally, he expressed strong support for the position of the Group of 77 that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol should remain the central framework for action on climate change and called for closer collaboration between developing countries and development partners to implement the Istanbul Programme of Action.

64. **Mr. Zinsou** (Benin) said that the international market remained turbulent and economic recovery remained slow and fragile. More than two thirds of the 800 million people in LDCs lived in poverty. Progress was required across the board, and least developed countries needed modern technologies so that they could increase and diversify production and start to play a larger role in international trade.

65. Greater focus was needed on helping to meet the goals established at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Istanbul and steps should be taken to determine what mechanisms would be needed to ensure financing for development after 2015. Given the enormous challenges faced by the LDCs, the answers would have to be innovative. The emphasis should be on productive investments and on policies that were based on shared but differentiated responsibility. Despite the problems they were facing, the rich countries should make every effort to honour their development financing commitments. The goal of enabling half of the 48 LDCs to transition from low-income to middle-income status was realistic and achievable.

66. Similar effort was needed to lighten the debt burden. He urged countries to exploit the potential for innovative financing, and invited developed and other able countries to provide quota- and duty-free market access, for least developed countries were the main losers in the Doha Round impasse. Benin hoped to see a prompt resumption of WTO negotiations.

67. The risks stemming from climate change, natural disasters, environmental degradation and drought were casting a pall over the future prospects of the LDCs. His delegation hoped that the 2012 Rio Conference would lead to bold decisions and measures in keeping with those dangers.

68. The latest report on the economics of ecosystems and biodiversity stressed the need to take ecosystem services into account in local policies, emphasizing man's dependence on nature. Reputable authorities were sounding the alarm about the impact of the disappearance of biodiversity and its many consequences for human societies. Benin welcomed the fact that the sixteenth Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change had adopted agreements setting out formal commitments for mitigating the effects of climate change, with concrete measures to protect the world's forests, which absorbed nearly a fifth of carbon dioxide emissions. It likewise welcomed other measures concerning the Kyoto Protocol and technological cooperation. However, the Cancún decisions had delayed negotiations on major reductions of greenhouse gas emissions by a further year. Benin

hoped to see substantial progress at the next Conference in Durban.

69. Africa needed to invest in the rehabilitation of degraded land to help, inter alia, resolve food-security challenges, safeguard biodiversity and maintain forest cover. Erosion of land and biodiversity cancelled out efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals, especially Goals 1 and 7. Introducing a green economy worldwide would help mitigate harmful climate changes, provided it did not raise new obstacles to poor countries' industrialization. Ways should be devised to make the world economy more inclusive. For Benin, sustainable management of land remained the priority.

70. **Mr. Calderón** (El Salvador) said that the world recession was worsening because lessons had not been learned and the necessary steps had not been taken. The falling global GDP would have an impact on human development in the short, medium and long term, thus recovery would be slow and arduous. Accordingly, he stressed the need for international solidarity and cooperation to ensure fulfilment of the commitments made to the LDCs, through strengthening of regional and subregional arrangements permitting initiatives for South-South cooperation as a complement to current North-South initiatives. In that way, measures adopted regarding infrastructure, energy, connectivity and trade facilitation would become decisive factors for competitiveness and growth.

71. With regard to development financing, El Salvador favoured implementation of the commitments adopted in the Doha Declaration and those contained in the Outcome of the High-Level Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, and welcomed the results obtained thus far by the open-ended working group on issues addressed in the final document of the latter conference.

72. El Salvador supported efforts to reform the structures of global economic governance, including review and strengthening of the international financial and monetary architecture to ensure more effective coordination. Reform of global economic and financial governance must aim primarily at increasing the participation of developing countries in the Bretton Woods institutions.

73. While reaffirming the importance of trade and investment in driving development, he said that Central American countries were experiencing a decline in exports partly because some products were vertically integrated in international assembly lines. Moreover, the economic and financial crisis was having an impact on levels of employment of Salvadorans living in developed countries, such as the United States. It was therefore important to pursue a policy of defence of the human rights of the migrant population, addressing migration from a long-term perspective.

74. El Salvador called upon development partners to strive for an early successful conclusion of the Doha Round and reaffirmed its commitment to address the specific needs of middle-income countries.

75. Finally, noting that combating climate change and environmental deterioration constituted a priority, he said that his delegation looked forward to the 2012 Rio Conference and reiterated the importance of maintaining a comprehensive approach to sustainable development based on its three interdependent pillars: social development, economic growth and environmental protection.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.